

# GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT SERVICES DIGEST

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This Digest is used to transmit information pertaining to the four program components of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: Curriculum; Individual Planning; Responsive Services; and System Support to professional school counselors, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors and administrators at all levels throughout the state.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **SURVEYS FROM ASSESSMENT RESOURCE CENTER (ARC) ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH CURRICULUM PLANNING!!**

The Assessment Resource Center (ARC) is pleased to offer a new series of surveys, the *Missouri Guidance Planning Surveys*. These surveys function as tools to help schools develop comprehensive guidance curriculum programs and meet the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) requirements using Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

To obtain information, including pricing for materials and services, contact ARC at (800) 366-8232 or (573) 882-4694 or view their catalog online at: [http://arc.missouri.edu/ARC2004catalog/ARC\\_2008\\_catalog.pdf](http://arc.missouri.edu/ARC2004catalog/ARC_2008_catalog.pdf)

## **PROGRAM COMPONENTS:**

**(From time to time, resources that are brought to our attention through ASCA listservs or other means that could be used as part of a guidance program will be listed here. The readers are encouraged to investigate the resources and decide whether or not they are appropriate for their programs. Listing of these resources does not constitute endorsement by either our section or DESE.)**

### **{CURRICULUM}**

**See above announcement about availability of curriculum planning surveys.**

### **{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}**

#### **CORRECTION CONCERNING MISSOURI CONNECTIONS FLYERS**

In the Career Guidance news article printed in the last issue of *The Counseling Connection*, The Newsletter of the Missouri School Counselor Association, information was shared regarding the availability of flyers from Missouri Connections. In the article, it was indicated that the flyers were available (free) from Missouri Connections by calling their 800 number.

As stated, these flyers are a great resource to use with your students, parents, and administrators as you promote the use of Missouri Connections. However, supplies of the flyer are not available in large quantities from Kuder. The flyers are posted on the web for all to have access to and print as needed on the Guidance and Placement page at DESE.

Please go to [www.dese.mo.gov/divcareer](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divcareer). On the right side of the page you will see a column entitled; How Do I Find? Scroll down to Guidance & Placement. Click on it and it will take you to the homepage of the Division of Career Education. On the right-hand side under the blue Guidance & Placement button scroll down to the green Missouri Connections button and click on it. That will bring you to an entire page devoted to Missouri Connections. On the right side of the page, you will see a copy of what the flyer looks like with a PDF file for each of the three groups mentioned above. You will also find a link to the Missouri Connections page along with links and phone numbers to Kuder and to our new Missouri field trainer Renee Bales.

You are encouraged to look at and use this valuable resource with your students. There are many ways to go about doing career explorations activities with your students. But, as you are well aware, **it is not often that a high quality career education system is totally free to you** for use with your students.

We are sorry for any confusion caused for you and/or our friends at Missouri Connections.

### **{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}**

#### **MARCH 9-15 IS NATIONAL PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS WEEK**

Gambling and youth are not a good mix. Studies have shown that rates of problem gambling among youth are two to four times higher than the rates for adult gambling, and that many pathological gamblers report having started gambling as early as age 10.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Title IX Coordinator, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480; telephone number 573-751-4212.

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While problem gambling is often thought of as an adult issue, youth are gambling at alarming rates. Studies indicate that 80 percent of high school students have gambled for money at least once in the past year; 4 to 8 percent of the youth have a serious gambling problem and another 10 to 14 percent of youth are at-risk of developing a serious gambling problem.

According to the NCAA, 20 percent of student athletes report that they placed their first sports wager before high school; an additional 24.9 percent placed their first sports wager during high school.

Although illegal, Missouri students are most often gambling through card games, on team sports, on the Internet and on personal games of skill. According to a national study, more Missouri students - 8.86 percent - have reported gambling on the Internet than the national average - 7.57 percent.

Parental surveys have shown that 84 percent of the parents of teen gamblers did not object to their child gambling. Parents often consider gambling a harmless activity for youth and preferable to drugs and alcohol. In fact, most teens are introduced to gambling by a parent or an adult close to them.

Many schools and religious groups also inadvertently endorse gambling by sponsoring bingo or casino nights for both adults and youth as social events and for fund-raising.

Research shows teen gamblers have higher rates of:

- Crime - School problems - Family problems - Peer relationship problems - Legal and money troubles
- Depression; suicidal thoughts and attempts - Dissociative "escape" behaviors
- Risk of co-occurring addictions including alcohol and substance abuse.

Counselors can play an important role in the prevention of all problem behaviors among young people. Consider including gambling education in your prevention education programs and review school policies in regard to gambling (i.e. casino nights, bingo on campus, rules and penalties for gambling on campus) to help ensure mixed messages aren't being sent to the students.

For more information about underage gambling, visit the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's Web site at: [www.888betsoff.org](http://www.888betsoff.org).

## **{SYSTEM SUPPORT}**

### **LOOKING FOR MORE PARENT INVOLVEMENT?**

Education World has compiled a list of strategies aimed at increasing parent involvement in the schools. Please share the link with teachers and see the list for yourself. To do so, go to

[http://www.education-world.com/a\\_special/parent\\_involvement.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_special/parent_involvement.shtml)

## **CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS OF NOTE:**

**A. THE 32ND ANNUAL MISSOURI MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (MMSA) CONFERENCE** will be held on March 14-16, 2008 at Tan-Tar-A Resort. For information, go to <http://www.mmsa-mo.org/conference.html>

### **B. WORKSHOPS ON TEEN SUICIDE PREVENTION SCHEDULED IN APRIL**

These workshops, offered through the Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH), will focus on signs, symptoms and the treatment of depression in youth, reducing stigma and how to ACT (acknowledge, care and tell). **Rebecca Musgrave, MA**, the Program Director for Dexter Community Regional Healthcare Foundation – Suicide Prevention Resource Center will present this half-day workshop. Dates and locations are:

**April 3, 2008, Kansas City, MO - Embassy Suites Hotel    April 4, 2008, Hannibal, MO - Quality Inn & Suites**

**April 8, 2008, Cape Girardeau, MO - Drury Lodge    Registration Fee: \$99.00** To register online, go to

<http://www.mimhtraining.com/liveconferences/2007/10/10/teen-suicide-prevention-act-now-2/>

**C. UCM-DESE COUNSELOR INSTITUTE** will be held at the University of Central Missouri's Central Summit Center in Lee's Summit, Missouri, on Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21, 2008 from 8:00-4:00. To see more information about the workshop and/or to download a registration form, go to

<http://www.ucmo.edu/workshops/CounselorInstitute.cfm>

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## **D. SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE JEFFERSON CITY, MO, JULY 14, 2008**

The third annual Missouri Suicide Prevention Conference, *Show Me You Care About Suicide Prevention*, will be held on Monday, July 14, 2008 in Jefferson City, Missouri. Details about this and other upcoming events related to suicide prevention will also be posted online at: [www.dmh.mo.gov/cps/issues/suicide/calendar.htm](http://www.dmh.mo.gov/cps/issues/suicide/calendar.htm)

The Call for Presenters is also available online. If you know of anyone that might be interested in presenting, please share the following link and encourage them to submit a proposal:

<http://www.dmh.mo.gov/cps/issues/ShowMeYouCareCallforPresenters.pdf>

## **E. MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (MOACTE) SUMMER CONFERENCE WILL**

be held on July 21-24, 2008 in Springfield, MO. For more information, go to <http://www.mo-acte.org/> and click on Conferences.

## **F. MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (MSCA) LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**CONFERENCE** will be held on September 6-7, 2008 in Jefferson City. Future information on the conference will be available at <http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/msca/>

**G. MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (MSCA) FALL CONFERENCE** will be held on NOVEMBER 2-4, 2008 at Tan Tar A Resort. Future information on the conference will be available at <http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/msca/>